

'Limping' Plymouth Captures Holiday Cage Battle, 50-44

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

The Christmas season is always full of surprises, but for Plymouth basketball Coach Fred Thomann the surprise was almost as unwanted as a piece of coal in his Christmas stocking.

Thomann lost the services of three of his starters in Ron Egloff, Bruce Johnson and Tim VanWagoner—all the injury roster.

BUT SURPRISE... Thomann's Rock cagers still managed to sweep the Churchill Holiday Tournament, defeating host Churchill in the first round, 61-58, and Stevenson in the finale, 50-44.

"It was a complete make-shift situation," said Thomann, who lost Egloff before the tourney with a throat infection and slight case of mononucleosis, lost Johnson with a hip point in the Saturday game with Churchill, and VanWagoner in the early stages of the finale with Stevenson.

"Steve Robb also played on a sprained ankle," added Thomann. "He was only about

75 per cent physically but about 120 per cent emotionally."

"All the kids worked hard, they really wanted this," added Thomann who now sports an overall mark of 5-2. The situation called for his tie back and make the opposite make the mistakes.

"Stevenson went at it—attempting to just throw the ball up and go in after it," said Thomann.

PLYMOUTH'S inability to convert at the free throw line kept Stevenson in close range. The Rocks made good only 12 of 25.

Stevenson totaled 19 more shots from the floor than Plymouth but made one two-point less, hitting on 18 of 17 for 25 per cent while Plymouth caught 19 of 34 for 55 per cent.

The Rocks didn't waste anytime in jumping ahead with VanWagoner hitting twice, Kevin Moore and Jim Johnson with a hip point in the Saturday game with Churchill, and VanWagoner in the early stages of the finale with Stevenson.

STEVENSON'S FIRST field goal came a minute later when Larry Fischer hit from the top of the key. The first quarter ended with Plymouth in command, 17-8, and VanWagoner on the floor with a sprained ankle.

Plymouth went ahead by as much as 11 in the second quarter but settled for a 20-23 halftime margin.

VanWagoner's replacement, Rick Neu, and Sztaygi kept pace with Stevenson in the third quarter and Plymouth held to a 42-32 advantage going into the final eight minutes.

With three minutes remaining, the Rocks maintained their 10 point margin but the Spartans gave it a shot. With 20 seconds left on the clock, Spartan Mike Patrick was faced with a one-and-one situation, and his Stevenson squad trailing, 48-43.

Patrick made good the first and just threw the second shot

up in hopes of getting the rebound. Stevenson hauled in the rebound, trailing by four but couldn't make good its futile effort and Plymouth coasted home to victory.

Plymouth won its tourney opener over Churchill, 61-58, with VanWagoner popping in 21 points and Robb 12. Churchill was headed by Mark Reed's 24 and Phil Damaska's 12.

Stevenson's opening win came over Thurston, 63-52.

TOM CENTERS paced all scorers with 23 points, followed by Dale Hadden with 15 and Mark Falvo with 11.

Churchill rebounded in the consolation contest, defeating Thurston, 54-52.

Reed was again high for the Chargers, who now stand 4-2 overall, with 20 points. Damaska added 13 and Jim

Foster 10. Keanan headed Thurston with 20 and Falvo notched 13.

PLYMOUTH (50)

Scaligi	2	5	7
Rebb	3	0	6
Jacobs	5	3	13
Moore	3	2	8
VanWagoner	3	1	7
Totals	15	12	50

STEVENSON (44)

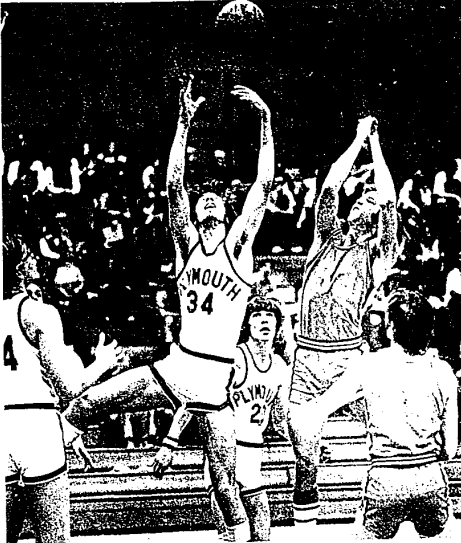
Centers	1	0	2
Hadden	6	1	11
Fischer	4	2	10
Neu	0	0	0
Taylor	1	0	2
Patrick	3	3	9
Link	1	1	2
Kelly	1	0	2
Totals	18	17	44

PLYMOUTH

FG	12	25
FT	12	25
TP	8	15

STEVENSON

FG	10	22
FT	12	25
TP	8	15



REBOUND DANCE — Plymouth's Kevin Moore (34) and Stevenson's Mark Hadden (53) look like they are going through a routine in a clash for a loose ball, with Rock Steve Robb (20) and Stevenson's Larry Fischer (35) looking on. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

Thurston Swimmers Triumph

Thurston High recorded its first victory in the young swim season over Southfield High, 65-30, with junior Scott Teeters the only double winner with firsts in the 200 and 400 yard freestyle.

Meet Results

200 medley relay: 1-Thurston (Kearns, Janssen, Helmer, Buer) 2-Southfield Time 1:53.7

200 freestyle: 1-Teeters (T), 200-yd (T), 300-yd (S), 400-yd (S), 500-yd (S), 600-yd (S), 700-yd (S), 800-yd (S), 900-yd (S), 1000-yd (S), 1100-yd (S), 1200-yd (S), 1300-yd (S), 1400-yd (S), 1500-yd (S), 1600-yd (S), 1700-yd (S), 1800-yd (S), 1900-yd (S), 2000-yd (S), 2100-yd (S), 2200-yd (S), 2300-yd (S), 2400-yd (S), 2500-yd (S), 2600-yd (S), 2700-yd (S), 2800-yd (S), 2900-yd (S), 3000-yd (S), 3100-yd (S), 3200-yd (S), 3300-yd (S), 3400-yd (S), 3500-yd (S), 3600-yd (S), 3700-yd (S), 3800-yd (S), 3900-yd (S), 4000-yd (S), 4100-yd (S), 4200-yd (S), 4300-yd (S), 4400-yd (S), 4500-yd (S), 4600-yd (S), 4700-yd (S), 4800-yd (S), 4900-yd (S), 5000-yd (S), 5100-yd (S), 5200-yd (S), 5300-yd (S), 5400-yd (S), 5500-yd (S), 5600-yd (S), 5700-yd (S), 5800-yd (S), 5900-yd (S), 6000-yd (S), 6100-yd (S), 6200-yd (S), 6300-yd (S), 6400-yd (S), 6500-yd (S), 6600-yd (S), 6700-yd (S), 6800-yd (S), 6900-yd (S), 7000-yd (S), 7100-yd (S), 7200-yd (S), 7300-yd (S), 7400-yd (S), 7500-yd (S), 7600-yd (S), 7700-yd (S), 7800-yd (S), 7900-yd (S), 8000-yd (S), 8100-yd (S), 8200-yd (S), 8300-yd (S), 8400-yd (S), 8500-yd (S), 8600-yd (S), 8700-yd (S), 8800-yd (S), 8900-yd (S), 9000-yd (S), 9100-yd (S), 9200-yd (S), 9300-yd (S), 9400-yd (S), 9500-yd (S), 9600-yd (S), 9700-yd (S), 9800-yd (S), 9900-yd (S), 10000-yd (S)

Charger Puckmen Upend Franklin

All good things must come to an end sometime, but for first year Franklin High hockey Coach Paul Ferguson, it came too early.

His Patriot skaters lost their opener to powerful Stevenson but rang up consecutive victories over Southfield, Lathrup and Bentley.

Next came the Christmas present Ferguson could have done without, a 4-1 loss to Churchill.

And to turn the tables around, it was Churchill's third straight triumph in Suburban hockey competition. Adam Mitchell and his Charger crew now find themselves in first place, two points above Stevenson at 2-0. A total of 18 penalties was called with Mitchell getting the axe in the closing minutes of the game after a disputed bench penalty call.

CHURCHILL, OUTSHOT Franklin, 22 to 17.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

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It's Kringle will arrive at an early Saturday at the Jackson-Northville harness racing meeting. Matter of fact, the belch-and-gest will lead the field to the post in each of the 10 races.

According to Leon Slavin, president and general manager of Jackson Raceway, Kris will be his happy self and will ride in an ancient sulky that goes back to the turn of the century.

It's just another way for Slavin to say thanks to patrons who have made the current meeting one of the most successful since the affable track boss began staging winter meetings at Northville Downs.

The plant will be dark Monday to give all employees and the barn area colony a chance to celebrate Christmas Day. Even Slavin will be gone for the weekend to spend the holiday with his wife and family in sunny Florida. But he'll be back on the scene Tuesday for the final five nights of the 1972 season and the last week of the current meeting.

Then on Jan. 1, Jackson will open the new year with the first harness racing action. A meeting that will continue until late January when Northville Downs will open its winter campaign.

For those who have been wondering about the success of early winter racing at the Downs, an announcement earlier in the week by Slavin should make all feel better... especially the horsemen.

Slavin announced the second purse increase of the meeting, boosting the minimum to \$1,000. All other divisions went up an average of 25 per cent.

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'Tis the season to be jolly and I really couldn't think of a better way to end year 1972 than with a jolly prediction—seeing that's how most of my predictions end up anyway.

And so help me, if you students at Churchill High School fight me on this prediction may you have an 0-9 football season in '73.

All signs say to this forecast that a jovial type of fellow all decked out in red and white will be visiting your homes soon, even if you have had a losing season.

Take what he has to offer and smile. Right behind him will probably be the referee and a step behind will be your sports editor, ready for the spicy quote. Then there is the "Letters to the Sports Editor" spoof—pen in hand but brain in nose. achoooooooooo!

NOW TO THE HEART of the column, a few "special" holiday greetings to convey to:

My bride of two and a half months, Denise, even if she does keep me up at night questioning me on how I could ever pick a team to beat Churchill in anything.

My parents, Ed and Virginia Donoghue, who are glad to have me out of the house and away from the phone and refrigerator.

My wife's parents, Homer and Rosella Hodge, who are now constantly getting questioned about their son-in-law's predictions.

My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Donoghue, who are waiting anxiously to be great grandparents—patience is a virtue, isn't it?

The dog I gave my parents last Christmas, Chin-Chu, a Lhasa Apso from Tibet that loves to chew up unsigned letters to the sports editor.

The members of my bowling team—my brother Mar, Carl Hunt, Ron Helmer and Pete Taylor. We will see who buys in next year's beer frames.

JERRY YOUNG and his wife, Jean, from Farmington High, who spend long hours during track season compiling the area track ratings.

Al Wachtel of John Glenn, who is spending the better portion of his Sundays compiling the area swim ratings.

Tommy Thompson, executive editor of the Observer, for getting back on the "yellow brick road" of health and making it a real heart-warming holiday season.

Hal Middleworth, public relations director of the Detroit Tigers, who has to be one of the greatest gentlemen to work with.

Dave Atwater and Enno Korthals for all their fine pictures that appear in these papers.

Bill Cameron, Eddie Edgar and Fred DeLano, whose weekly columns and stories add spice to the sport pages.

Bill Moosiak, member of the U.S. badminton team, for those weekly paddleball matches. I'll beat you some day.

TO ALL COACHES, be it winning or losing. But to you losers, please coach in the results—isn't there an ol' saying that everyone loves a loser?

And last but not least, to all the athletes, cheerleaders, parents and readers in Observerland.

Have a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



BLOCKED SHOT — Walled Lake Central's 6'7 Randy McLean goes high to knock down this shot by Redford Union's Jerry Potech (54). Potech paced RU's victory with 19 points. (Observer photo)

RU Dumps Belleville

The first win for a new coach is always a big thrill.

Redford Union wrestling Coach George Bern had a double thrill out of his first because it also came in the opening Suburban Eight meet in which RU defeated Belleville, 45-12.

THE PANTHERS are now hoping for a turnaround after three consecutive defeats preceding the Belleville match.

RU's Dale Peterson dropped the 38 pound decision to Steve Williams, 1-4, but Panther Randy Worley came back with a 3-15 pin at 105 pounds with Jim Hrabowski, as did Steve Halsey over Belleville's Tony Balesier at 112 pounds in 1-46.

Kerry Morgan scored the Panthers' third straight pin at

PREP Results

BASKETBALL

Franklin 62, GC West 50

Kearney 63, GC East 50

NE 76, Henry Ford 70

RU 102, WL Western 65

WL Central 66, Bentley 60

Redford 52, Farmington 49

RU 66, N. Farmington 54

WL Central 60, Redford 49

Henry Ford 70, Western 49

NE 62, Redford 34

Bentley 71, WL Western 43

Henry Ford 76, Farmington 62

RU 61, Bentley 60

Stevenson 63, Thurston 52

Philmont 62, Southfield 30

Churchill 64, Thurston 53

Plymouth 50, Stevenson 44

HOCKEY

Assumption 8, Stevenson 4

Churchill 4, Franklin 1

Franklin 3, Southfield 0

SWIMMING

Stevenson 85, Central 6

NE 62, Churchill 33

NE 74, Redford Union 21

Thurston 65, Southfield 30

Franklin 62, GC West 32

NE 62, Bentley 30

Stevenson 33, Allen Park 18

Wayne 40, Glen 18

Ann Arbor 50, GC 11

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Franklin 3, Stevenson 0

Stevenson Wins JV Tourney

Stevenson's junior varsity basketball squad captured top honors in its holiday tourney with Churchill, Plymouth and Thurston.

The Junior Spartans toppled Thurston in their opener, 39-29, and routed Churchill's JV team, 58-44. Double figure scorers for Stevenson were John Doland with 15, Jim Giltland at 12 and Gary Deyward with 12.

Churchill sported three in double figures in the championship with Jay Nelson high at 15, Rob Jamroy with 12 and Mark Ronoli with 10.

The Chargers had beaten Plymouth in its first round, 57-51, with Plymouth coming back in the consolation contest over Thurston, 74-47.